

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0308

PARIS FOR ARS

FOR: IBS COVERAGE DESK, AFRICAN DIVISION

IAA, IPS AF BRANCH, IOR/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: HAL SINGER QUARTET

1. "HAD HE MET YOU, MAMAN CHERIE, DUKE WOULD HAVE DEDICATED THIS MELODY TO YOU" SAID THE WARM OKLAHOMA VOICE, BEFORE LEADING HIS QUARTET INTO ELLINGTON'S "SATIN DOLL".

2. THE VOICE WAS HAL SINGER'S, THE FINE MUSICIAN, THE STRONG LEADER, ONE OF SAXOPHONE'S GREATEST.

3. MAMAN CHERIE IS A DISTINGUISHED MALAGASY LADY, MRS. REALLON, PRESIDENT OF THE MALAGASY RED CROSS. THE MALAGASY CALL HER "MAMAN CHERIE" FOR HAVING IDENTIFIED HER WITH HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN MADAGASCAR FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, SINCE 1923.

4. MANY MALAGASY PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW MRS. REALLON'S ACTUAL NAME. HAL MIGHT NOT KNOW IT EITHER, WHICH DID NOT PREVENT HIM FROM DECLARING HIS RECENT AFFECTION FOR HER FROM THE STAGE. "WE ALL LOVE YOU MADLY, MAMAN CHERIE",
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SAID HE TO ANOTHER ROAR OF APPLAUSE FROM THE PACKED

AUDIENCE: SOME 930 TANANARIVIAN OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE - BUT MOSTLY STUDENTS - WHO HAD FILLED THE 880 SEATS AND THE AISLES OF THE AMPEFILOHA (PRONONCE: AM-PAY-FEE-LOO) AUDITORIUM, LOCATED IN THE MODERN "COMPLEXE SCOLAIRE" (CAMPUS) IN DOWNTOWN TANANARIVE, LAST NIGHT WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25.

5. THE ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF THE PUBLIC INSPIRED HAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES: ALAIN JEAN-MARIE (PIANO), GUS NEMETH (BASS), OLIVER JOHNSON (DRUMS). THEY WERE AT THEIR BEST - IN VIRTUOSITY AND MUSICAL QUALITY - IN EVERYTHING THEY DID WHICH INCLUDED HAL SINGER'S "DUBOIS" AND "THE BLUES IS MINE", SONNY ROLLINS' "SUNNY MOON FOR TWO" AND GERSHWIN'S "SUMMERTIME". MUCH APPLAUDED ALSO WERE TWO LATIN AMERICAN PIECES "THE SHADOW OF YOUR SMILE" AND "ONE NOTE SAMBA". LIKE HAL SINGER QUARTET'S FIRST TANANARIVE CONCERT MONDAY FEBRUARY 23, LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WAS SPONSORED BY THE MALAGASY RED CROSS AND THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER UNDER THE AUSPICES (HAUT PATRONAGE) OF MRS. CELINE RATSIRAKA, THE WIFE OF MADAGASCAR'S HEAD OF STATE AND HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE RED CROSS.

6. THE FLAG OF THE RED CROSS AND THREE LARGE BICENTENNIAL EMBLEMS DECORATED THE STAGE LAST NIGHT.

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